

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

List of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the rate of the gas flow is in the range of 5-60 m/s.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the rate of the gas flow is in the range of 10-45 m/s.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the rate of the gas flow is in the range of 15-30 m/s.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the entrained cleaning liquid is separated from the gas flow in a separation zone where the cleaning liquid is separated and collected.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the vacuum used for sucking off the cleaning liquid is supplied by a compressed-air driven dust/liquid suction device.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the vacuum used for sucking off the cleaning liquid corresponds to a negative pressure in relation to atmospheric pressure of 20-300 mbars.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the negative pressure is 100-200 mbars.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the suction nozzle has a nozzle opening that is essentially rectangular.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein a length to width ratio of the rectangular nozzle opening is greater than 5:1.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the length to width ratio of the rectangular nozzle opening is greater than 10:1.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the length to width ratio of the rectangular nozzle opening is greater than 20:1.

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21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the remaining portion of the cleaning liquid is sucked off the screen fabric to such a degree that the screen printing frame can immediately be used for printing again.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the cleaning liquid contains an emulsifier and the method further comprises flushing the clean screen fabric with water to remove any liquid film residue thereon after removal of the cleaning liquid.

23. (Currently amended) In a method for cleaning the screen fabric of a screen printing frame including a first cleaning step which includes contacting the screen fabric with a cleaning liquid which is capable of dissolving or washing out ink residues present in the screen fabric, optionally assisted by brushing, but without applying suction to the screen fabric, to thereby dissolve or wash out said ink residues from said screen fabric, and continuing said contacting until the screen fabric is clean of said residues, at least a portion of said cleaning liquid remaining in or on the clean screen fabric, and, after said first cleaning step is completed, thereafter removing said remaining portion of the

cleaning liquid remaining in or on the clean screen fabric, the improvement which comprises removing said remaining portion by applying directly to and moving a suction nozzle operating under vacuum across the clean screen fabric to generate a gas flow through the fabric that sucks off and entrains said remaining portion of said cleaning liquid in said gas flow, and subsequently separating the entrained cleaning liquid from the gas flow.
